



CALPEEK

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20th S.D. SPECIAL: ALL EYES ARE FOCUSED ON THIS RACE TO SEE HOW POLITICAL WINDS BLOW..
State lawmakers from both political parties are watching this April 7 SPECIAL ELECTION to replace State Sen. Alan Robbins(D) with KEEN interest. This special will be the first election in CA's 1992 cycle and incumbents want to see how the political winds are blowing in the heart of L.A.'s San Fernando Valley...

...There are 10 candidates in this field, but the frontrunner is State Senate Pres. David Roberti(D). The rest of the field includes 3 Demos, 3 GOPers and a Libertarian, a Green and a P&F candidate. Aside from Roberti, only GOP contractor/businessman David Honda and GOP/PRO-Choice activist Carol Rowen show any sign of being viable candidates...

...With a large field of contenders, and a lot of voter ANGER in general, a June 2nd runoff would seem likely. The key question is whether Honda, with his strong business ties and links to the Valley's United CofC, can outlast Rowen, who is getting help from Marlene Bane, wife of retiring Demo Assemblyman Tom Bane...

...The KEY issues in the race are JOBS, the economy and Roberti. The veteran lawmaker isn't from the Valley, but has moved here because the 1992 reapportionment left him without a seat he could win. So CARPETBAGGING is an issue, but Roberti seems to be handling it. Roberti also seems to be handling his well-known PRO-Life stance without much trouble -- so far at least, but in a runoff with Rowen, it could get sticky...

...During a candidate's debate on Century Cable TV with 9 of the 10 candidates (Rowen ducked the debate), Green Party candidate Glenn Bailey showed that he's really a tax and spend environmentalist, who has taken

a page out of Jerry Brown's "drain the swamp" political corruption message. To cut CA's \$6 BILLION budget deficit, Bailey wants to hike ALCOHOL TAXES to cover the deficit. Roberti blasted that idea, saying such taxes would threaten thousands of jobs in Calif. AND in the S.F. Valley where Anheuser-Busch has a major facility. With GM closing its Valley factory, jobs are the key, Roberti said. So he scored points and made Bailey look somewhat foolish...

...Are GUNS an issue? MAYBE. The PRO-gun candidate is Demo Bill Dominguez, who was an active foe of Roberti's bill to ban the sale of ASSAULT WEAPONS. Because Prop. 73 contribution rules still apply during a special, it's possible there could be some INDEPENDENT expenditures against Roberti from PRO-gun groups. But CALPEEK sources think it is unlikely the funds would be spent to help Dominguez. More next week...

CAMPAIGN '92: ASSEMBLY GOP CIVIL WARFARE.

Editor's note: Although CALPEEK has written about the ongoing civil war within the GOP Assembly Caucus in previous issues, the battling has gotten more intense in recent days. The official SPIN is that everything is fine and dandy, but insiders know better. The warfare is between current GOP leader Bill Jones and his allies and former leader Ross Johnson and his pals. And this conflict is not only about power, but ideology as well, with the hardline conservatives more often than not siding with Johnson. Here is CALPEEK's analysis as it relates to some different primaries...

● 80th A.D. - Nowhere in CA is the civil war more likely to intensify than in this Riverside-Imperial Co. district. The big news here is that veteran Demo Assemblyman

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Steve Clute says he's NOT running, even though he filed papers. Another incumbent, GOP Assemblywoman Tricia Hunter, was chased into this A.D. by the hardliners, but now faces a very difficult primary challenge from El Centro Councilman David Dhillon, a 30-year-old PRO-Life conservative. With Clute out of the way, hardliners will redouble their effort to defeat Hunter. Demos have a good candidate in community college trustee Julie Bornstein, an attorney from Palm Springs, who was going to challenge Clute in the primary. Hunter is allied with Jones, while Dhillon probably leans toward Johnson. A toss up for now...

- 5th A.D. - Another example of civil war is this rematch between incumbent GOP Assemblyman B.T. Collins and hardline conservative Barbara Alby. Although Collins was supported in the special election by most all GOP Assembly members, Alby and her followers are much closer to Johnson and his allies than to Jones, who is sometimes linked to Gov. Pete Wilson, a real enemy to the hardliners. CALPEEK rates this Sacto/Placer Co. primary a toss up...

- 60th A.D. - Yet another example of GOP war is taking place in this Whittier area A.D. in eastern L.A. County. Incumbent GOP Assemblyman Paul Horcher is under siege from arch-rival Phyllis Papen, a member of the Diamond Bar City Council. Before Horcher was elected to the assembly, he too was a councilman from Diamond Bar. These two really hate one another and CALPEEK sources say Johnson and one of his chief allies, State Sen. Frank Hill(R), have lined up with Papen. Throughout the leadership battles last year, Horcher remained loyal to Johnson, except on that last vote, where he switched to Jones. So this is really a lets get even fight, where Johnson et al are more interested in knocking off members of their own caucus. Advantage to Horcher for now...

- 53rd A.D. - Here is a 4th example of civil war, but here there is no incumbent. Still it's the classic hardliners vs. traditional conservatives. In this case there are 7 GOP contenders in this So. Bay district of L.A. Co. There are 3 frontrunners in the race: Redondo Beach Mayor Brad Parton(hardliner); campaign consultant George Young(conservative); and Torrance Councilman Dan Walker(conservative). Parton is

getting lots of help from PRO-Life groups (Family PAC), while Young is VERY close to the NRA. About 37% of this district is in Torrance, which is good news for Walker. CALPEEK rates this race a toss up, but much depends on how much support the NRA gives Young...

...Odds & ends. FAX FOWL UP. When faxing political materials, it's a good idea to check the number. Case in point. 7th A.D. GOP candidate Janet Nicholas (wife of Nicholas Turkey Farm owner Bob Nicholas), faxed some campaign materials to Campaign Calif.(the political group founded by Tom Hayden) instead of to her consultants, Ray McNally & Richard Temple. Yes, the fax made its way to Demo hands...40th A.D. Demo candidate Paul Krekorian (close to retiring Demo Assemblyman Tom Bane) did NOT file papers. Rumor is Speaker Willie Brown and his allies told Bane to pull his support or else...23rd S.D. A possible blunder by Demo candidate Cathy O'Neill. She favors VACANCY DECONTROL for apartments. Santa Monica and West Hollywood, both cities with STRONG rent control laws, are in the heart of the 23rd S.D. On the other hand, O'Neill might be able to get a few bucks from apartment owners for her stand. Stay tuned...

CRA CONVENTION FIREWORKS STILL POSSIBLE BECAUSE BUCHANAN HAS A NEW TARGET: WILSON. The CA Republican Assembly's upcoming April 3-5 endorsement convention at the Sheraton Newport Beach Hotel may still provide lots of excitement, even though coservative GOP presidential contender Pat Buchanan has substantially toned down his attacks on Pres. George Bush. Yes, Buchanan will be there and he is the keynote speaker at the CRA's Apr. 3 dinner (SRO)...

...So if Buchanan has toned down his anti-Bush message, who's he going to bash? CALPEEK sources say Buchanan's fire will be aimed at CA Gov. Pete Wilson, who blasted Buchanan earlier this month, calling him a racist and an anti-Semite. Just wait until Buchanan serves up his main course at the dinner — skewered Wilson a la moderate, blood rare. Sources say Buchanan really wants to stick it to Gov. Pete — and so does his sister, Bay Buchanan, who sources say may use this CRA forum to test the waters for a possible run at Wilson in two years...

...Depending on how much Buchanan fires up the troops, some think it is still possible for Buchanan to BLOCK Pres. Bush from getting the CRA endorsement, which requires a 2/3rds vote. Others disagree, noting that on the one issue which really counts with the CRA, being a strong PRO-Life advocate, Bush is owed this endorsement...

...In addition to presidential politics, the CRA's Saturday (Apr. 4) luncheon will feature a GOP U.S. Senate debate, with all the candidates EXCEPT appointed U.S. Sen. John Seymour. He's not exactly the CRA's favorite Republican (a mild understatement) and he's made other plans for the day. A smart move. But moderate U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell will be there, along with U.S. Civil Rights Comm. Bill Allen, U.S. Rep. Bill Dannemeyer, Bruce Herschensohn and Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono...

...FYI: In case you can't make the debate on Saturday, KFI Radio in L.A. will broadcast live from the CRA convention...

LOCAL ELECTIONS '92: CITY-COUNTY ROUNDUP.

Editor's note: Here's another roundup of CITY-COUNTY elections taking place April 14 and June 2...

- BEVERLY HILLS - CALPEEK sources think that two incumbent councilmembers, Allan Alexander and Vicki Reynolds, should survive the April 14 election. However, it is believed that Councilman Bernard Hecht may be in trouble, because he has a tendency to talk too much during council meetings. Who will take him out? The 2 candidates who have the best shot at ousting Hecht are attorney Tom Levyn and Herm Schultz, the former president of the BH renters group. While BH has an image of luxurious homes with swimming pools and spas, the truth is that 60% of the residents are RENTERS. If Schultz can put together a good GOTV drive, he'll have a shot. Levyn has MONEY and has hired consultant Jill Barad...

- CONTRA COSTA COUNTY - Only one incumbent (out of 3 up for reelection) is seeking another term - Tom Torlakson, who represents the eastern part of the county. He has 4 opponents, who between them, don't have much name ID. Edge to Torlakson...

...Sup. Nancy Fahden won't seek another term. There are 4 well-known rivals run-

ing for her 2nd district seat. They include Martinez Councilman Jeff Smith, Martinez Mayor Mike Menesini, Pinole Councilwoman Ann Williams and Moraga Councilman Graig Cossley. This is a toss up...

...In the 3rd, Sup. Robert Schroder is retiring. The 2 chief rivals are Gayle Bishop, who ran against Schroder last time and narrowly lost, and Susan Rainey, wife of the county sheriff, Richard K. Rainey, who is running for the assembly. Susan Rainey has hired Russo-Marsh, while Bishop has hired Rick Taylor. Rate this a toss up...

- L.A. COUNTY DA's RACE - Campaign reports show incumbent DA Ira Reiner raised only \$57,000 since Jan. 1, compared to \$91,000 for Dep. DA Gil Garcetti and about \$87,000 for Beverly Hills Councilman Bob Tanenbaum. Dep. DA Sterling Norris raised \$12,000. In the all important cash-on-hand category, Garcetti has \$335,000, Tanenbaum has \$240,000 and Reiner has \$117,000. While Reiner has tremendous name ID countywide, much of that ID is NOT positive. FYI: CALPEEK sources expect Reiner to finish first in the June 2 primary. The battle now taking place between Garcetti, Tanenbaum and Norris is to see who makes a November runoff with Reiner. Right now, it seems to be pretty close between Garcetti and Tanenbaum...

- L.A. COUNTY SUPES - Incumbent County Sup. Deane Dana may have a tougher reelection than he anticipated. He is getting bashed and trashed by both his chief rival, Rolling Hills Councilwoman Gordana Swanson, and by the news media. A Jan. 13th article in the Daily Breeze was brutal. And Swanson is on the attack with a solid hit piece, mailed to high propensity voters in this South Bay district. The mailer notes that Dana has a \$74,000 armor-plated limo. During a time when money is tight, this sort of attack may have legs. Swanson's campaign mgr. is Gary South, a newcomer to CA, but a veteran political consultant. If Swanson can raise money, she has an outside shot at an upset. Like Dana, she's a conservative...

CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE.

The 1991-92 edition of CALPEEK's Directory of Campaign Consultants is now on sale. The cost is \$15 for subscribers and \$40 for non-subscribers. CA sales tax included.

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: TWO MORE MEASURES.

Editor's note: Here is an update on 1992 initiative proposals which have been given the OK to collect signatures. In order to make the November 1992 ballot, petitions have to be returned by April 17 to allow enough time to verify signatures...

- "TAXATION" is the official title of a statute that would increase State tax rates for maximum personal income taxpayers; temporarily suspend indexing on personal income tax rates; and hike tax rates for corporations, insurance companies & banks. In addition, this measure calls for the reappraisal of corporate-owned property whenever there is a change in ownership; would impose a new oil severance tax; and would repeal the 1991 sales tax on snack foods. The sponsors are Lenny Goldberg and Howard Owens, who are members of the CA Tax Reform Assn. They have until Aug. 14 to collect 384,974 signatures...

- "STATE TAXES" is the official title of another measure by Goldberg and Owens which is nearly identical to the other measure. There is one technical difference. Same deadline, etc...

- CALPEEK sources say the CASINO GAMBLING initiative for Adelanto has not yet reappeared on the streets for circulation. That's an ominous signal that the sponsors are hurting for bucks. Stay tuned...

WORKERS COMP BILLS SET FOR MAR. 31 HEARING.

The Assembly Insurance Committee has set 9 a.m., Mar. 31 to hear about 37 bills, all dealing with the hot topic of WORKERS COMPENSATION. The hearing will be in Room 4202 of the State Capitol. Workers Comp insurance is driving the business community up the wall with skyrocketing premiums. CA businesses spend 3.1% of every payroll dollar on WC, compared to the U.S. average of 2.2%. Stay tuned...

MERVIN FIELD TO DISCUSS PRESIDENTIAL RACE.

Pollster Mervin Field will discuss "Calif.: 1992 Presidential Race Battleground," 11:45 a.m., April 10, Nikko Hotel, S.F. Field's talk is sponsored by the Commonwealth Club of CA. For info (415)597-6705...

A CALPEEK UPDATE: CHECK BOUNCING SCANDAL.

The latest member of the CA congressional delegation to be hit with charges of having insufficient funds to cover checks written at the House Bank in D.C. is U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas(R-Bakersfield). Total number of bad checks is reported to be 119. The story about Thomas was broken by Bakersfield Californian political reporter Scott Forter on Mar. 21. YES, Thomas does have a GOP primary opponent, Carlos Murillo, an investment advisor. Thomas is on a number of conservative hit lists around CA and has his share of GOP enemies. CALPEEK sources say that had this disclosure come before the end of filing, it is likely State Sen. Don Rogers(R) or Assemblyman Trice Harvey(R) might have jumped into the primary. What makes this story even better is the ineptitude of the Kern Co. Demo Central Cmt., the CA Demo Party and the Demo Congressional Cmpg. Cmt. for not even fielding a single Demo candidate in this race. These folks are now scrambling to find a write-in Demo candidate. FYI: U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer (D) has a new nickname, "Barbara Bouncer." She's now at 143 bad checks, up from last week's 87. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

- L.A. based GOP media consultant Steve Powell has joined forces with GOP media consultant Tom Edmonds in Washington D.C. to form Edmonds Powell Media...

- Patti Archuletta has been appointed director of the CA Film Commission by Gov. Wilson. Archuletta was with CA Republicans for Choice prior to this new job...

- Richard Temple has partnered with Sacto-based campaign consultant Ray McNally to form McNally Temple Associates, Inc...

- Wayne C. Johnson & Associates moves to 980 9th St., 16th Floor, Sacto 95814. New phone (916)449-9600. P.S. The firm also won a Gold ADDY Award for a radio spot it produced for State Sen. Tim Leslie in last year's special election...

- Since Feb. 5, Sacto consultant Gale Kaufman has been Director of Majority Services for Assembly Demos...